

MARVEL
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**WHOSE
SIDE
ARE
YOU
ON?**
05.03.06

DAVID • CALERO • VILLARRUBIA

X-FACTOR[®]



Steam
Scans



IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR



AFTER THE END OF WHAT MAY WELL HAVE SEEMED THE LONGEST DAY OF THEIR LIFE, THE MEMBERS OF X-FACTOR HAVE MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

THEY'VE DRAWN A LINE IN THE SAND WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, DECLARING MUTANT TOWN TO BE A SANCTUARY FOR "DECIMATED" MUTANTS WHO FEEL THREATENED BY THEIR POWERLESSNESS. THEY'VE CLEARED THEIR CLIENT, GLORIA SANTIAGO, OF HER SISTER'S MURDER, PINNING IT INSTEAD ON MOVIE STAR JACK VAUGHN.

THEY'VE ROYALLY HONKED OFF SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS, NOT ONLY FOR INCRIMINATING THEIR CLIENT, VAUGHN, BUT ALSO FOR THWARTING SI'S ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON RICTOR AND INSTEAD SENDING THE ASSASSIN'S CORPSE BACK TO SI VIA MESSENGER.

SO INFURIATED WAS SI HEAD DAMIAN TRYPP, JUNIOR, THAT HE AMBUSHED SIRYN AND VICIOUSLY BEAT HER—PERHAPS TO DEATH—AND LEFT HER LYING IN AN ALLEYWAY TWO BLOCKS FROM THE OFFICE.

MONET HAS DISCOVERED SHE DEVELOPED A FOOD ALLERGY TO BRIE.

GUIDO, HAVING BECOME ADDICTED TO ONLINE "LINGO," HAS SET A NEW HIGH RECORD FOR THE GAME.

(WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SHOW THOSE LAST TWO, BUT WE WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHAT OUR HEROES WERE UP TO BETWEEN PANEL BORDERS.)

OH, AND SIRYN WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT AND LEFT FOR DEAD. THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW....

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EXCUSE ME.

JUST SIT ANYWHERE, HONEY.

NO, UH...

I WAS LOOKING FOR A FRIEND.

HOW FRIENDLY WE TALKIN', HONEY? 'CAUSE MY DIVORCE WAS JUST FINALIZED...

NO, NO... UH... I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET A FRIEND HERE...

WELL...NOT MEET HER, EXACTLY. SHE SAID SHE COMES HERE ALL THE TIME FOR BREAKFAST, AND INVITED ME, BUT I PASSED...

...AND THEN I CHANGED MY MIND AND CAME HERE, BUT I DON'T SEE HER.

HER NAME'S THERESA CASSIDY...

OH, SY-REEN. LOVELY GIRL COMES HERE ALLA TIME.

COCKROACH JUMPED OUT OF HER OMELET ONCE. HER SCREAM BROKE EVERY GLASS IN THE JOINT.

COMPED THE OMELET, OF COURSE.

DIDN'T SEE HER TODAY, THOUGH.

HAVE YOU BEEN HERE THE WHOLE MORNING?

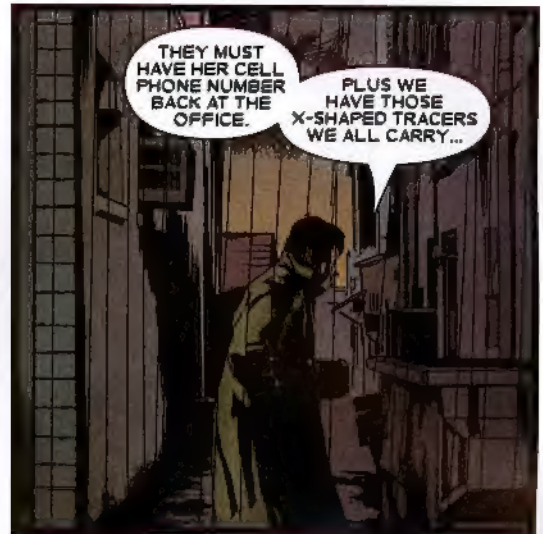
SURE HAVE, HONEY.

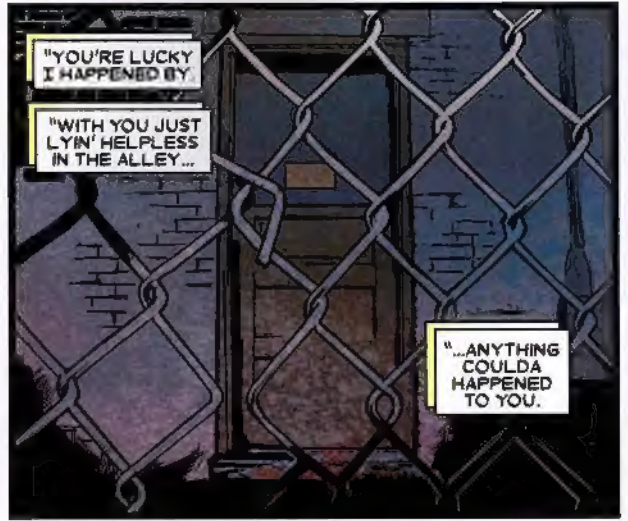
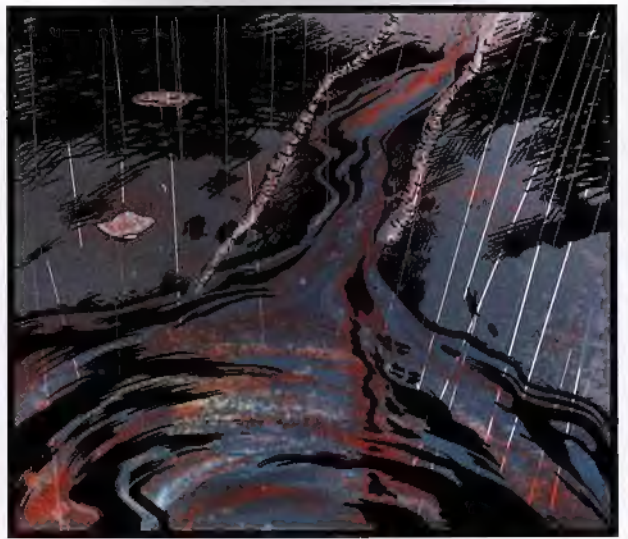


YOU DON'T THINK SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO--?

OH, NO, NO, I'M SURE IT'S FINE.

WELL, TELL HER CANDY SAYS "HI."







YUP. I
WAS HOT
STUFF IN
MY DAY.



THAT WAS
BEFORE, OF
COURSE.



BEFORE
I BECAME A
MUTANT.

AND
EVERYTHING
WENT STRAIGHT
TO HELL.



YUP.
RIIIIGHT
DOWN THE
TOILET.

FLUSHED
AWAY.

LEFT
ME WITH
NOTHIN'.




NO FANCY
COSTUMES OR JETS
LIKE THE UPSCALE
MUTANTS. AND NOW I
DON'T EVEN GOT A
MUTANT POWER,
NOPE.

ALL I
GOT IS MY
MEDICAL KIT ...
MY WITS ...

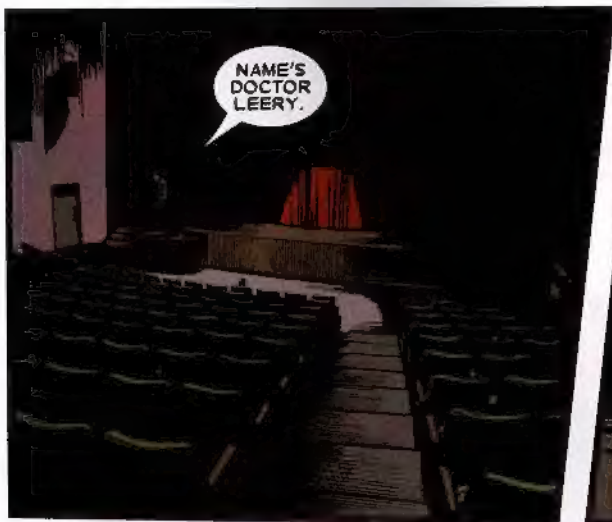
AND NOW ...
FINALLY ...

CAPTIVE AUDIENCE



...I HAVE
SOMEONE TO
TALK TO.

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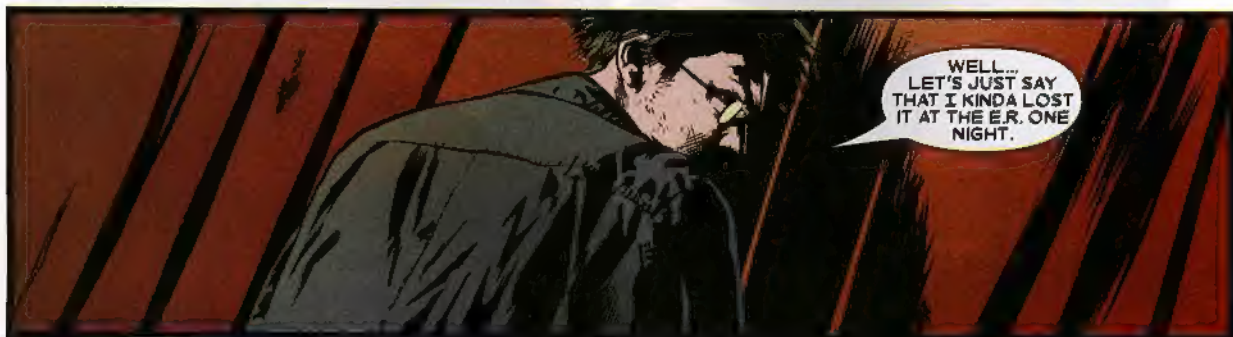
SORRY.
ANGER
MANAGEMENT
ISSUES.



THAT'S
HOW I GOT
INTO TROUBLE,
ACTUALLY.

SEE, MY
WHOLE MUTANT
THING ONLY FIRED
WHEN I GOT
ANGRY.

Y'KNOW...
LIKE THE HULK.
'CEPT I DIDN'T
GET STRONG,
I...



WELL...
LET'S JUST SAY
THAT I KINDA LOST
IT AT THE E.R. ONE
NIGHT.



AND THEN
THINGS GOT
DICEY.



AND THEN
THEY GOT
BLOODY.



I DON'T
LIKE TO TALK
ABOUT IT.



FUNNY,
ISN'T IT?



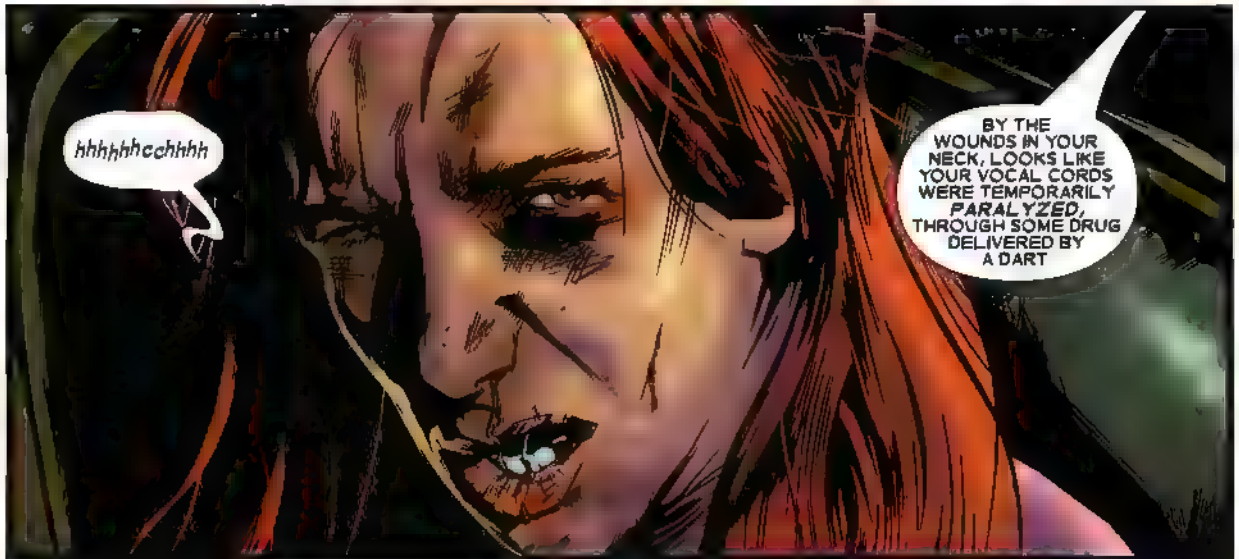
HERE I
FINALLY GOT
SOMEONE TO TALK
TO... AND I DON'T
WANNA TALK.



LIKE
I SAID
FUNNY



THERE
YOU GO.



hhhhhhcchhhh

BY THE
WOUNDS IN YOUR
NECK, LOOKS LIKE
YOUR VOCAL CORDS
WERE TEMPORARILY
PARALYZED,
THROUGH SOME DRUG
DELIVERED BY
A DART






LIKE THE
PLACE?

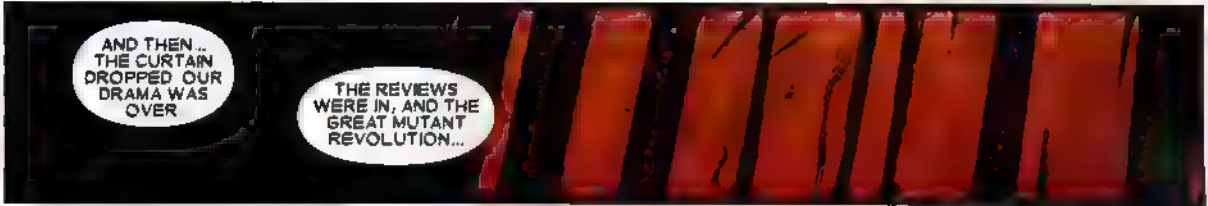
IF YOU'RE
INTO SYMBOLISM,
THIS PLACE IS LIKE
THE MUTANT
POPULATION.

ONCE UPON
A TIME THRIVING
MAGNIFICENT



OUR NUMBERS
WERE GROWING
WE WERE A THING
OF BEAUTY, A
WORK OF ART

WE WERE
GOING TO MAKE
THE WORLD FACE
US ON OUR OWN
TERMS.




AND THEN ...
THE CURTAIN
DROPPED OUR
DRAMA WAS
OVER

THE REVIEWS
WERE IN, AND THE
GREAT MUTANT
REVOLUTION...



CLOSED
OUT OF
TOWN



"WELCOME,
MY FRIENDS, TO THE
SHOW THAT NEVER ENDS,"
LIKE EMERSON, LAKE
AND PALMER SAID.

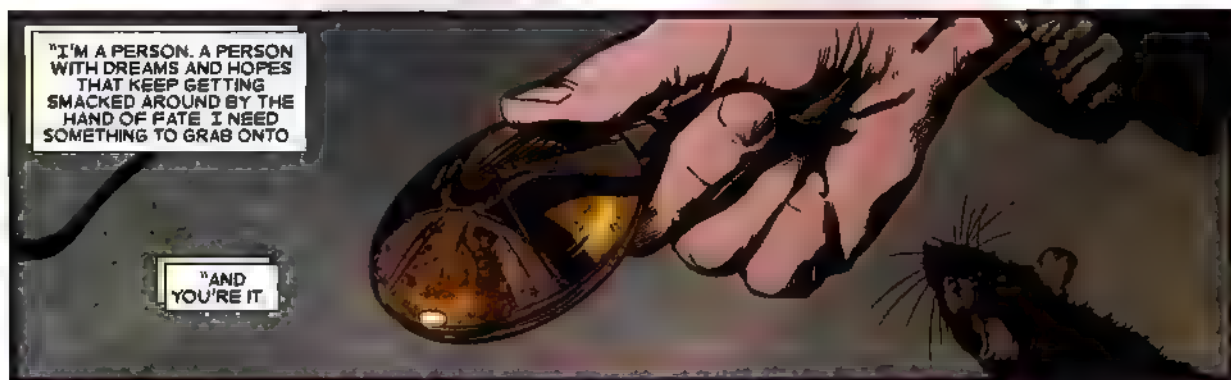
'CEPT
OUR SHOW
ENDED

AND
SOMEHOW
SOMEHOW



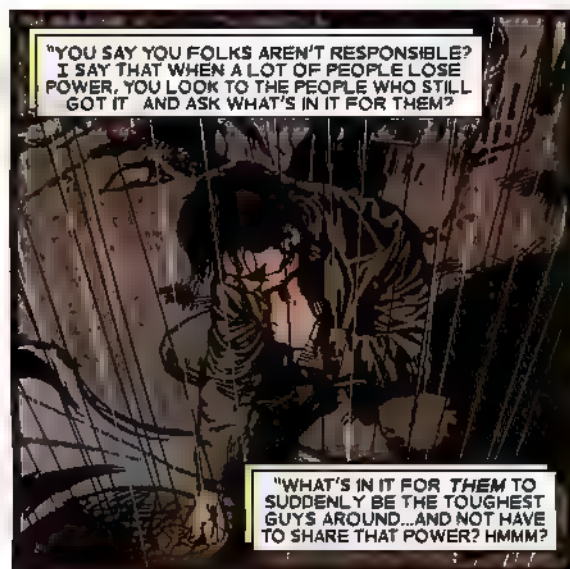


"I BET YOU
THINK I'M VERMIN
THAT I'M LOWER
THAN ANY FORM
OF LIFE BUT
YOU'RE WRONG



"I'M A PERSON. A PERSON
WITH DREAMS AND HOPES
THAT KEEP GETTING
SMACKED AROUND BY THE
HAND OF FATE. I NEED
SOMETHING TO GRAB ONTO

"AND
YOU'RE IT



"YOU SAY YOU FOLKS AREN'T RESPONSIBLE?
I SAY THAT WHEN A LOT OF PEOPLE LOSE
POWER, YOU LOOK TO THE PEOPLE WHO STILL
GOT IT AND ASK WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?

"WHAT'S IN IT FOR *THEM* TO
SUDDENLY BE THE TOUGHEST
GUYS AROUND...AND NOT HAVE
TO SHARE THAT POWER? HMMM?



"WHICH IS WHY I
KINDA DOUBT YOU'LL
BE GIVING THE
INVESTIGATION YOUR
BEST EFFORTS.

"SO I'M
FIGURING



"... YOUR GUYS MIGHT
NEED SOME, Y'KNOW...
INCENTIVE



"LET'S SAY I SENT X-FACTOR
A NOTE DEMANDING THEY FIGURE
OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND RETURN
THE STATUS TO QUO

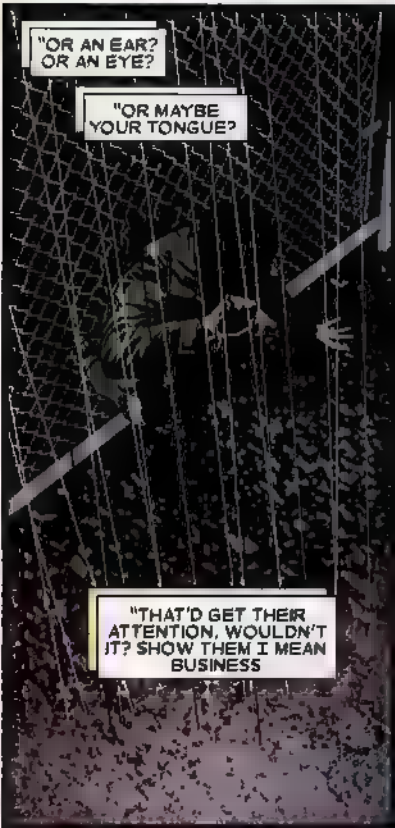
"I'M THINKING IT
WON'T GET MUCH
ATTENTION



"NOW...LET'S SAY
THAT LETTER WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY,
OH I DUNNO



"...A LOCK OF
YOUR HAIR?



"OR AN EAR?
OR AN EYE?

"OR MAYBE
YOUR TONGUE?

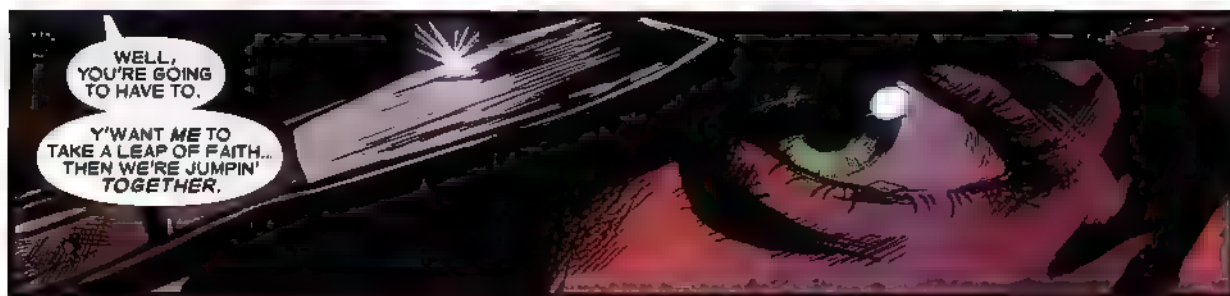
"THAT'D GET THEIR
ATTENTION, WOULDN'T
IT? SHOW THEM I MEAN
BUSINESS



"THEY COULDN'T
PASS THAT MESSAGE
BY, COULD THEY?"



"THEY COULDN'T
PASS THAT MESSAGE
BY, COULD THEY?"





Go to
hell, you sick
weakling.



I'm not
gonna lie using holy
names just so you'll
think I'm *afraid*
of you

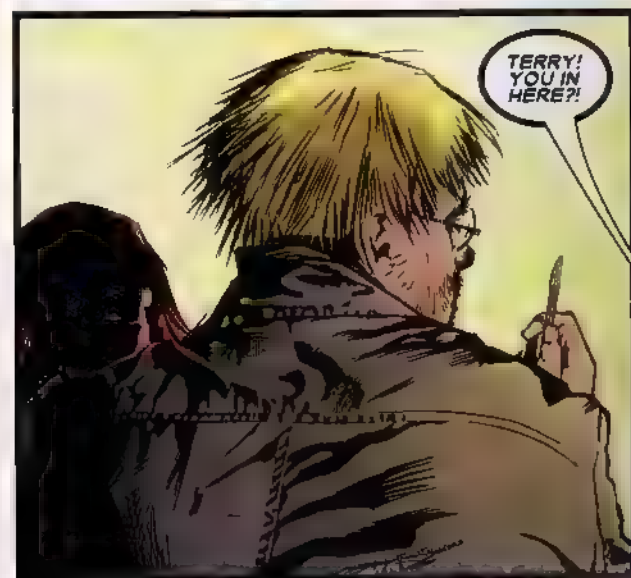
YOU ARE
AFRAID.

In *your*
dreams. You don't
know who you're
screwing with

NEITHER
DO YOU

AND IF YOU
WON'T GIVE ME
SOME HOPE TO
CLING TO...

...THEN WE'LL
START WITH THE
TONGUE SINCE YOU'RE
NOT USING IT FOR
ANYTH--



TERRY!
YOU IN
HERE?!



